



# Chapter Chronicle

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QUESTION AND ANSWER CONTINUE. Fray René Paglinawan (right) inquires about the commissions reporting today. Fray Miguel Angel Hernández (center) listens to Fray Paglinawan's questions. Fray Romeo Ben Potencio (left) is the moderator of the morning sessions.

## Three more Commission Reports

On the fifth day of the Chapter, the chairmen of the Province's Commission on Communications and Publications-Recoletos (CCP-R), Commission on History, Culture, and Heritage-Recoletos (CoHCH-R), and Commission for the Protection of Minors presented their reports to the capitulars.

At the start of the first session in the morning, the moderator of the day—Fray Romeo Ben Potencio, read new messages for the Chapter. After the attendees expressed their appreciation for the greetings and prayer messages, they reviewed the minutes of the previous days. When no further corrections were made, the capitulars unanimously voted for their approval.

The moderator then signaled for the presentation of a video recap of the first three days of the 8<sup>th</sup> provincial chapter prepared by the secretarial team.

The reports of the commissions followed. Fray Jose Ernil Almayo, chairman of the Commission on Communication and Publication-Recoletos (CCP-R) took the first part of the session. He presented an overview of the organization, its functions, activities, recent developments, accomplishments, and proposals. After shedding light on the indispensable role of the commission in the life of the Province and the Order, he concluded his report quoting Pope Francis, "It is not enough to be passersby on the digital highway, simply 'connected'; connections need to grow into true encounters. We cannot live apart, closed in on ourselves. We need to love and to be

loved." Fray Reynaldo Jarnilla took the floor to speak about the Recoletos Communications, Inc. (RCI) the corporation partner of CCP-R.

Fray Leander Barrot, chairman of the Commission on History, Culture and Heritage-Recoletos (CoHCH-R) gave his report. He presented the different accomplishments during the quadrennium—the writing of manuals, processes and procedures relative to the commission's tasks and responsibilities, the establishment of its central office at the Bulwagang Recoletos, setting up of the organization and by-laws of the commission, the organizational structure of the commission based on the existing offices and operations of the Bulwagang Recoletos, and the significant milestone events organized by the commission. He also identified ongoing ventures.

At the end of Fray Leander's presentation, Fray Edgar Tubio reported on the developments of the BasteCon which oversees the restoration works of the Basilica of San Sebastian, Manila. Fray Dionisio Selma also said some words about the Handumanan foundation. Both foundations are under the office of the Prior Provincial.

In the afternoon, Fray Arnel Diaz gave a report on the Commission for the Protection of Minors. He highlighted the directives, steps, and direction that the Province has taken as a manifestation of its unwavering commitment to the Church and Order's efforts to promote and uphold the protection of minors and vulnerable adults connected to the Province's institutions and ministries.



COMMUNICATION AND HISTORY. Fray Jose Ernil Almayo (top) presents the Commission on Communications and Publications-Recoletos' updates. Fray Leander Barrot (below) chairs the Commission on History, Culture, and Heritage-Recoletos.

# Love and Friendship antidote to burdens

Fr. Dionisio Q. Selma presided the Eucharistic celebration and delivered the homily on the fifth day of the provincial chapter. His reflection centered on two correlative terms — love and friendship. These correlates, he says, are best solutions to problems, conflicts, and burdens.

Dionysus or Fr. Diony, the name he is called by those close to his age, underscores that these virtues of love and friendship are never on the level of feelings. It is not skin deep, superficial or ephemeral. In the words of Jesus in the gospel according to John, love and friendship are founded on the fulfillment of the commandments, “Do what I command.” It is an obligation, a responsibility, and a commitment.

In the socio-cultural context of the gospel, Fr. Diony clarifies that friendship among kings and nobles carries the sense of

intimacy, trust, and confidence. A true friend of the king or noble can enter the privacy of the king’s bedroom, he can talk directly to the king without the needed intermediary, and sometimes he is consulted before the king makes major decisions.

This level of friendship demands likewise a reciprocal attitude of intimacy, trust, and confidence on the part of the friend. In this way, friendship and love become commitment, obligation, and responsibility.

It is in this level of meaning that we are to understand the words of Jesus when he

said, “I call you friends and not servants.” We are called to intimacy, confidence, and trust—a stark contrast to a relationship with servants and slaves.

Fr. Diony connected his reflection to the obligations the capitulars have to the province. He says, we are to craft the direction of the province reflective of love and friendship among brother, “love one another.” In this way, the plans and programs do not become burdensome, neither sources of conflicts nor problems.



*PRAYER OPENS THE DAY. (clockwise from top left) Fray Dionisio Selma presides over the Mass of the day. Fray Julius James Tinapao read the Word of the Lord. Fray Russell Lapidéz (left) and Fray Roderick Deguit (right) concelebrates with the main presider of the day. The capitulars use both the physical and digital versions of the Liturgy of the Hours.*

## LIST OF MESSAGES RECEIVED FOR THE 8<sup>TH</sup> PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

- Federación de Agustinas Recoletas de España
- Prof. Emmanuel Luis Romanillos
- Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres
- University of Negros Occidental-Recoletos
- Recoletos de Antipolo
- Recoletos de Mira-nila
- Recoletos de Talisay